

KENTON COUNTY FISCAL COURT
Historic Kenton County Courthouse
5272 Madison Pike
Independence, KY 41051

Meeting Minutes
December 9 , 2025
5:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called to order the December 9, 2025, meeting of the Kenton County Fiscal Court. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann
Commissioner Beth Sewell, District 1
Commissioner Jon Draud, District 2
Commissioner Joe Nienaber, District 3
Assistant County Attorney, Chris Nordloh

Staff: Joe Shriver, County Administrator/Deputy Judge
Scott Gunning, Assistant County Administrator
Kurt Greivenkamp, Treasurer
Sue Kaiser, Fiscal Court Clerk

Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of November 12 , 2025.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Citizens Address

Michael Staverman, who currently resides in Edgewood in the 3rd District, stated that he wanted to speak out on an issue that is currently eroding community relations with local law enforcement and specifically the Kenton County Sheriff's Department. This county's 287G agreements with the Department of Homeland Security, and specifically Immigration and Customs Enforcement or ICE. These 287G agreements deputized local law enforcement to do the work of ICE. Specifically, in May, this county entered into the jail enforcement model, JEM, and the warrant service officer programs. In the seven months since, life has been quiet for many and marked by fear for others. A few months ago, the Department of Homeland Security commenced Operation Midway Blitz in Chicago and opened major efforts in other cities such as Charlotte, New Orleans, and Minneapolis most lately. The ensuing brutal and reckless enforcement has left many across the country and here in Kenton County angry, fearful, and worried. Because of ICE's violence and carelessness, this

county's local law enforcement suffers. Locals know about the 287G agreements and trust is eroding significantly within certain communities, specifically with the local Sheriff's

Department, which runs the jail, which houses detainees. Every bed that the county leases to ICE is another neighborhood that is scared that they will see masked agents in their streets. Another neighborhood that now thinks twice about calling 911, that thinks twice about calling in officers.

Another neighborhood that does not call in for real criminality in our communities. This is bad not just for citizens in our community, but also for local law enforcement. We need to have trust between the community and local law enforcement. Less trust means less safety, not only for citizens and residents, but also for officers who are on the streets and put themselves in jeopardy every day for us. We need to keep information free-flowing between citizens, residents, and officers so that we can solve crime and get actual violent criminals off the streets. In Chicago, 95% of the detainees they bring in have no criminal record. In November, most recently, the Cincinnati Enquirer did work to look at Northern Kentucky. 98% of the detainees in Northern Kentucky are not violent offenders. These are not violent people. Are we to pay the price in our communities in not catching actual violent offenders just because we want to get gardeners, servers, contractors who help in our communities and who serve us into our jail, while actual violent offenders go free because we are not communicating as freely as we were before this 287G agreement? Do you feel safer knowing more people are less comfortable contacting local law enforcement? Do you rest easier every night knowing 98% of immigrants who are detained in our jails are not violent? It has been reported that the income paid to the county is \$88 per person per day for each person that we jail in our facility. The cost of having those people in our jail is priceless compared to that. We're losing out in safety, we're losing out in trust. We are also losing out in economic activity as residents and citizens alike do not feel comfortable to go out in their communities and spend their hard earned money. Are you fine with that exchange? He is not. Why would we be fine with that exchange? Why are we permitting that exchange? It is these questions he comes here before you to ask and he awaits your answers. He is urging you all to please consider cancelling the 287G agreements.

Judge Knochelmann stated that the jailer actually is the elected official that runs our jail, not the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Draud asked if he said he lives in Edgewood?

Mr. Staverman answered that yes he does.

Commissioner Draud asked why he didn't contact him?

Mr. Staverman answered that he does know that Dr. Draud represents him. He will be in contact, but he wanted to come here and speak to the full board.

Commissioner Draud asked if he said 95% of the people in Chicago that are arrested are non-violent?

Mr. Staverman answered yes, that is correct. That is verified by ProPublica.

Commissioner Draud stated that ProPublica is an esteemed journal. Knowing the history of Chicago and the number of people that are murdered throughout the week he finds this fact hard to believe.

Kerry Stephens, a resident of Ft. Wright, Kentucky, stated that she is also speaking tonight based on her concerns about the county's agreement with ICE and the Department of Homeland Security. She is a great grandchild of Irish immigrants who changed their last name at Ellis Island because of fear of discrimination. She is no stranger to how hopeful and motivated immigrants can leave a lasting legacy for good in our community. She feels as if Kenton County, and especially the Covington area, is somewhat of a shining gem in Cincinnati. Many of our restaurants started by immigrants or first generations have achieved national merit recently, including some restaurants on Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives. It is a joy to live nearby areas like Mainstrasse and Madison Avenue that line our streets with some of the best authentic international cuisine in Cincinnati. Through the county's involvement with ICE, she fears that we are instilling fear into those who have so much to give to our community and so much to potentially give to our community.

She has heard the argument for ICE in that the increasing number of immigrants in our nation will increase our crime rates and take away jobs from native-born citizens. However, she does not see that issue here in Kenton County. She doesn't feel as if we need a 287G agreement or an ICE taskforce in a county that is 87% white and where, according to an article by the Enquirer in November, less than 2% of immigrant offenders have committed violent crimes. She has concerns that through these agreements, our officers and our funds spent by the Sheriff's office won't be able to be spent on more pertinent issues in our counties, such as the fentanyl crisis, of which is affecting lots of people that she knows. She has concerns that the police will have less time to take care of that. She asked that the court please consider Kenton County's agreements with ICE.

General Business

A. Presentation of an award for first place in the American Public Works Association State Roadeo, Mini Excavator Skills Challenge to Bradley Creech.

Rick Buster, from Campbell County Public Works, stated that he is here representing the APWA for the Kentucky chapter and, more importantly, the Northern Kentucky chapter, Bradley Creech competed in our equipment Roadeo, and won first place for the mini excavator. Through this, he'll be moving on to a regional competition in Knoxville on March 19th and 20th representing Northern Kentucky and the Kentucky chapter. This is an equipment Roadeo. It's skid steers and mini excavators. It's the equipment that these guys use every day. It is taking their skills and ability to operate the machinery with placing puzzle pieces, rings, picking up balls, things like that that are technically a lot more difficult. His abilities to be in first place really represent the State of Kentucky and the APWA chapter and, more importantly, Kenton County Public Works.

B. Update on the Covington Business Council from Pat Frew.

Pat Frew, the Executive Director of the Covington Business Council (CBC), stated that he wanted to give the court a brief update on the CBC. As an organization, he tries to come before the court once a year. They do appreciate the support. The annual dinner at the convention center was about three weeks ago. They had about 500 people at that. The CBC stands at about 580 member companies today, which represents more than a quadrupling of memberships over the past 15 years. We've seen a lot of people interested in what we do, not only the way that we operate and how we give individual attention to many of our member organizations, but people are really interested in all the good work that this group and others have done to make Covington a destination in our entire region. We've had more than 25% growth over the last year. On the advocacy front, the CBC rallied support recently from leading bars, restaurants and partner agencies like the Northern Kentucky Chamber and Meet NKY to sway city leaders to create a common consumption area. This area allows bars patrons in the central business district to carry adult beverages on certain hours. Now, this has not been approved yet, but it's something that will be coming, we think, by later this spring. It is another way to also enhance retail in Covington. We've got a lot of great bars, restaurants and businesses that are growing, but the retail part of Covington could use some attention and some growth. Also, in two years, of course, we're having bridge and infrastructure issues in Covington, and so we have the Bridging the Gap program with the city that's going to be taking place in the coming months to help strengthen commerce there when the bridge linking Newport and Covington is closed, demolished, and rebuilt. The CBC is a primary partner in helping the city of Covington to inform businesses to this regard. We'll be helping to promote special deals at bars and restaurants that should cause more foot traffic to be going along the main corridors, Madison Avenue, Main Strass, and all those areas. The CBC has also assisted the Covington School Board to form a business-centric input in the school's master plan document. They will be hiring a new superintendent in 2026. We also help to provide focus groups as the community has sought to give input on the type of leader that the school district will be providing. Obviously, there's a lot of room for growth and opportunity in the schools. We found that many people, before they have

children move to Covington, then move out because the schools are insufficient, to put it kindly. We need to strengthen the schools, which will strengthen the largest city in Northern Kentucky in Covington. We've also been working with the city to schedule meetings at least quarterly with leading industry sectors that are important to the city. These include life science industry, also the marketing and agency and branding industries. These private meetings are giving the city clear direction on what the leading companies need in growing and expanding their presence, which also maintains a strong supply of tax revenue for needed city services. We've begun dialoguing with the Life Learning Center to start a litter graffiti removal campaign using individuals enrolled in the Life Learning Center development program who are seeking to improve their lives. Teams of a dozen at a time will be removing litter and graffiti in 2026 in the Central Business District and around Rudy's Corner in Latonia. Also, the CBC Foundation is partnering with SparkHaus to provide fellowships for 10 startups, five this year and five next year, to pay for their rent at the entrepreneurial hub along with providing free mini six-month CBC memberships, providing matchmaking services at our luncheons for businesses that can help them in their growth. As we're in the holidays now, the CBC has also instigated a storefront decorating program. We're going to be announcing winners from about a dozen entries. That's something that we can grow from here. We have also started a new retail campaign to try to attract retailers as members of the CBC, giving them a price preferential, a price point to help them to be a part of that. We noted a lot of success from those restaurants during Small Business Saturday recently, right after Thanksgiving heading into the holidays. We appreciate the support of the county and appreciate the opportunity to present.

Commissioner Draud stated that he wanted to compliment Mr. Frew on the job that he has done. He has been excellent. He also wanted to thank him for the kindness that he has expressed toward him when he can't walk really well.

C. Request approval of the Kenton County Clerk 's 2026 Term Order.

Judge Knochelmann stated that Ms. Summe does the best job in the Commonwealth, and we don't always get a chance to say that. She runs a tight ship fiscally and operationally and we appreciate that.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that the queue system that Kenton County uses is remarkable. He is curious if that's something that's used throughout the state. or are we kind of unique in that?

Ms. Summe answered that it came from COVID, but one other clerk actually used it and that's where she saw it. She then had it modified to what she thought worked best for Kenton County. It's called Q-Trac. The Bullitt County clerk, which is right outside of Louisville, uses it because of their spacing issues. He was talking about it., and she went down, saw it and thought that it would work for Kenton County. She thinks it is a really good opportunity for people to feel like they're being recognized, and they don't feel like when they're waiting in line. It is actually also a great tool because it shows her how, from a training perspective, if someone's taking a real long time or they're struggling. It works on both sides of the aisle as far as for the customer, as well as a good opportunity for her to identify opportunities to trainsomebody better if they're having difficulties with something.

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

D. Request approval of the Kenton County Sheriff 's 2026 Term Order.

Jerry Knochelmann stated that he seconds your opinion on Ms. Summe. Her office is just fantastic. It's one of the hardest offices to operate. He has often said that there could be three offices and it would still be busy.

Judge Knochelmann stated that he received a letter from the Sheriff today announcing his retirement at the end of the year. He has had 27 years of service to this county. More will be said and done here in the coming weeks. He is a great asset and a great public servant.

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

E. Request approval of a Permanent Easement and Temporary Construction Easement with Sanitation District No. 1 at 3908 Richardson Road (Kenton County Golf Courses) for a storm sewer upsizing project.

Spencer Stork stated that SD1 has a stormwater project that they're going to be doing. It's on Kimberly Drive off of Independence Station Road., and abuts the golf course property. As part of that storm sewer upsizing project, they actually need to come onto the golf course property about 140 feet to upsize a portion of the pipe that's on the golf course. They are compensating for both the permanent easement for the pipe and a temporary construction easement, as well and offering fair value for that easement as compensation to Kenton County. It is off to the very edge of the golf course, and quite a distance from the fairway.

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

F. Request approval of a Permanent Easement with Sanitation District No. 1 at 11777 Madison Pike for a sanitary sewer extension to the Kenton County Police and Emergency Communications building.

Spencer Stork stated that both of these have been a long time coming. This one is related to an opportunity we had because of the Downs at Nicholson development. They extended the sanitary sewer up all the way close to 17 for the development. We were able to work with them as part of a land sale agreement for some property that we had on the east side of 17 to basically allow them to complete the section of sewer that would run under KY17 and then tie in our building to the sewer. In order to make that final connection, SD-1 has to formally accept the sewer that the contractor installed. Part of that formal acceptance procedure is acceptance of these easements.

Commissioner Draud asked who is doing that big water tower?

Spencer Stork answered that if it off 275 then it is SD-1. It's basically a combined sewer for an overflow tank. So, when we have a lot of heavy rainfall, some of the sewers get to their capacity. So the tanks are able to temporarily store sewer.

Commissioner Draud asked how they get the water and sewage in there?

Spencer Stork answered that it is a couple of really big pumps. When the sewers get so full, those pumps will kick on and fill up the tank.

Commissioner Draud asked if this will help us any with Doe Run?

Spencer Stork stated that he does not know.

Judge Knochelmann stated that it is for combined sewer overflows. It is one of those aspects of fixing that problem in the most economical way. It's been evaluated for a long time. We are due for SD-1 to come in and do an update to us, so we'll get that on the calendar.

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

G. Request approval of pay application #20 to Dugan and Meyers for the Kenton County Government Center Parking Garage.

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that this pay app has been vetted by the county engineer and himself, and it's been presented for your consideration.

Commissioner Draud asked for a financial breakdown of the garage.

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that we did a roughly \$20 million contract with Dugan and Meyers to construct the garage. In that were allowances and contingencies, but Dugan and Meyers has done a fantastic job to the point that we have roughly \$4 million in those accounts. They are going to still hold that money until the completion of the podium, which was started back on November 16th. We're building a podium on top of the garage in which the apartments, the Bavarian Flats, will be built by Merus and Urban Sites. The podium costs about \$4 million. So, what we have done is invested roughly \$20 million into a garage, and we will get back \$15 million of that from the state through our agreement with them. He believes this last payout will be eligible for state draw. We have submitted all \$15 million to the state.

Commissioner Draud asked how many parking spaces the garage has?

Joe Shriver answered that there are 247. Not all those are open right now because of the active construction, but he thinks easily two-thirds of those are available and have been since October 13th.

Commissioner Draud asked if the people that live in the apartments be able to park there?

Joe Shriver answered that they will have access to a number of those spots. They will have to rent them, and so the county will receive revenue if their residents choose to park in our parking garage.

Judge Knochelmann stated that it is a \$20 million garage, and that \$4 million, whether it be now or here in the next number of months, it brings it down to a \$16 million cost that we got \$15 million from the state for as a 250 space parking garage.

Joe Shriver stated that Dugan Meyers has done an extraordinarily good job of being efficient.

Commissioner Draud asked if we get any revenue from renting or selling the condos?

Judge Knochelmann answered that it would just be in our equity. It was basically our agreement with the owner for the development of the apartments that hopefully in 5, 10, 15 years, when or if those were ever sold, then we would have that money come back to the county. So the county would probably get a check one of these days when all four of us are gone, and they'll say, that was a really good decision back in 2025.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

H. Request approval of the Redevelopment Fund Agreement between the Kenton County Fiscal Court and the City of Ft. Wright.

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that we received an application from the City of Fort Wright. We vetted this through our advisors, Jeanne Schroer and also Josh Wice from PDS. They deem this to be an appropriate project.

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

I. Claims Lists dated November 25, 2025, and December 9, 2025.

There were no questions on the Claims List.

Resolutions

**A. Resolution No. 25-010
A Resolution for the Kenton County Fiscal Court concerning Fiscal Year Budget Adjustments.**

Treasurer Kurt Greivenkamp stated that there is only one budget adjustment for towing from fleet services for \$6,000, moving that from their diesel line item.

Commissioner Draud asked what they tow?

Kurt Greivenkamp answered that it is for various county cars or snow plows.

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**B. Resolution No. 25-30
A Resolution for the Kenton County Fiscal Court approving attendance incentives for 2025 and 2026 of \$2,000.00 per annum for all hourly full time Kenton County Emergency Communications Center (Dispatch) employees who work 2,080 hours annually or 1,912 hours annually if the employee is also actively serving in the military**

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that this is the program we talked about during budgeting process. He likes to call this one proof in concept. We have been doing this incentive with the jail, and the reason we started with the jail is that they are a 24-7 shop. They're public safety, but they had horrendous vacancy rates. He doesn't know if this program did this or not, as the culture has changed as well, but it was a piece of the puzzle to show positive results. So, after we have received some positive results, he told Ashley Hawks that her department next on the list because they have 42 positions that man consoles out there. There are 14 vacancies right now. We are going to try this tool and see if it has the same effect that it did on the jail.

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**C. Resolution No. 25-31
Resolution for the Kenton County Fiscal Court approving attendance incentives of**

\$2,000.00 per annum for all hourly full time Kenton County Detention Center employees who work 2,080 hours annually ending November 30, 2026, or 1,912 hours annually if the employee is also actively serving in the military.

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that we would like to keep going with this program because we have not only recruited, but retained folks during this process

**D. Resolution No. 25-32
A Resolution making an amendment to the Administrative Code & Policy Manual.**

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that the theme of the night has been recruitment and retention. We have been talking with our departments and we've been listening. They have said it is very difficult to attract tenured and experienced employees who are used to having vacation time and leave time to come over and join our departments even though they want to. They may have trips scheduled or what have you. We have a very judicious accrual system, and he likes that system because it keeps people honest. You earn it over time and you use it as you have it. However, during that first year, it can be very difficult. He doesn't know of any department head that he has hired since that he didn't have to finagle and work the system. We started to think what would be a way that we could sort of make it attractive for folks to come to us that have experience and knowledge from other agencies, but not have to wait as long for some ability to take trips. They would still have to go through the same approval process. They would not be able to just take it unannounced or unexpected. It would still have to work for the department operations, and so we found that this is an acceptable program and we want to see how it goes. He wanted to have it done by Resolution so it's effective January 1. He also asked that the court reflect this as a first reading of an Ordinance because he is going to come back in January as it involves administrative code. That needs to be done by Ordinance. We will advertise second reading for January 13th for the administrative code change.

Commissioner Draud stated that he told Joe Shriver that we need to try to have some ability to have leverage when you're trying to bring somebody in that's got experience that you have the latitude of giving them credit for the experience or not giving them credit for it. People are not going to want to transfer and not be allowed to take their experience with them in terms of salary.

Joe Shriver stated that this was done with the refresh of our compensation back in spring of 23. We now have the ability to slot them up to mid-range based upon years of experience in certain grades. That was something that the Police Department worked hard on, so we do have that in terms of compensation.

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Consent Agenda

- A. Exhibit 25-172
Request approval to extend the current contract with Bavarian Trucking company for the solid waste voucher program and waste disposal services for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**
- B. Exhibit 25-173
Request approval to extend the current contract with Bestway for waste disposal services covering multiple county departments.**
- C. Exhibit 25-174
Request approval to surplus a 2019 Dodge Charger for the Kenton County Sheriff's Office.**

- D. Exhibit 25-175
Request approval to surplus various items for the Kenton County Police Department.
- E. Exhibit 25-176
Request approval to surplus a Bunn Coffee Maker for the Kenton County Fiscal Court.
- F. Exhibit 25-177
Request approval to award the bid for a water softener to Triton Services, Inc. for the Kenton County Detention Center.
- G. Exhibit 25-178
Request approval to decline all bids for the stainless steel shower doors for the Kenton County Detention Center.
- H. Exhibit 25-179
Request approval of various employee bond renewals.
- I. Exhibit 25-180
Request approval to ratify the grant application for the Northern Kentucky Technical Rescue Team.
- J. Exhibit 25-181
Request approval to accept the CDBG grant for Transitions, Inc.
- K. Exhibit 25-182
Request approval to award the RFP for the sign and roadway materials to Vulcan Signs for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- L. Exhibit 25-183
Request approval of the proposal for additional service No. 9 from Gresham Smith for the Kenton County Government Parking Garage.
- M. Exhibit 25-184
Request approval of the proposal for additional service No. 10 from Gresham Smith for the Kenton County Government Parking Garage.
- N. Exhibit 25-185
Request approval to renew an agreement with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to perform right of way mowing and litter pickup on specific routes for the Kenton County Public Works Department.
- O. Exhibit 25-186
Request approval to reject all bids and purchase 177 laptops through the State Contract for the Kenton County Emergency Communications Department.
- P. Exhibit 25-187
Request approval to go out to bid for security camera and access upgrades for the Kenton County Government Center.
- Q. Exhibit 25-188

Request to accept the Design Services Agreement with Apex Aerial Works LLC at the New County Park.

All items on the consent agenda were voted on together.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Executive Orders

**A. Executive Order 25-157
An Executive Order approving the Declaration of an Emergency for the
Emergency Communications Department.**

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that we just needed to communicate to the court at this meeting what had happened for there to be an emergency declaration. We had a weather event out at the dispatch center, and it had caused a failure in one of our UPSs. Those UPSs do two things. They act as a bridge between the generator for any power outages because those programs, if you lose power even for a second, they will run down and then they'll have to be booted back up. The second function that he learned through this process was that it also is a mega surge protector. We had a weather event that showed its failure. As we were diagnosing that problem, we had a second weather event that actually had a surge that damaged some of our equipment. Technology Services jumped on it immediately. We were able to relocate within hours down at 1840 Simon-Kenton Way and we were back up and running. Actually, through all of the events, we were never down more than three to five minutes at any given time. We were able to get back up, but we wanted to move to Simon-Kenton Way to protect the equipment and now we are doing vent cleaning, floor cleaning and everything we can't do in the dispatch center while it's running 24-7. So we're taking this opportunity to protect all the equipment with many UPSs until we can get everything set up. There was only a 15 week lead time for our big UPS, so we will be back in the dispatch center on December 15th. The reason we had to declare an emergency was to protect the equipment, to continue operations with dispatch, and to get the replacement equipment purchased as soon as possible. Everyone did really fantastic work on that, and it has just been amazing.

**B. Executive Order 25-158
An Executive Order approving the reappointment of Jeffrey Morrison to the
Ryland Heights Fire District Board.**

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**C. Executive Order 25-159
An Executive Order approving the reappointment of Amanda Peters to the
Transitions Board.**

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**D. Executive Order 25-160
An Executive Order approving the reappointment of Dr. Gary Hampton, Dr.**

Kevin Wall, Dr. Shelly Voet and Dr. Holly Danneman to the Local Board of Health.

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

- E. Executive Order 25-161
An Executive Order approving the rehire of Carl Day as a Public Services Seasonal Technician.**

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

- F. Executive Order 25-162
An Executive Order approving the appointment of Dylan Hinkel as a Public Services Technician I.**

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

- G. Executive Order 25-163
An Executive Order approving the appointment of Landon Webster as a Public Services Technician I.**

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

- H. Executive Order 25-164
An Executive Order approving the reappointment of Joe Nienaber to the PDS Services Council with Beth Sewell as the alternate.**

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

- I. Executive Order 25-165
An Executive Order declaring a Level One Snow Emergency on December 2, 2025, in effect until rescinded.**

No action needed.

- J. Executive Order 25-166
An Executive Order rescinding the Level One Snow Emergency that was issued on December 2, 2025.**

No action needed.

- K. Executive Order 25-167
An Executive Order approving the re-appointment of Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann to the Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments Board of Directors.**

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**L. Executive Order 25-168
An Executive Order approving the retirement of Scott Hardcorn as the Director of the Drug Strike Force.**

Commissioner Draud made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**M. Executive Order 25-169
An Executive Order approving the appointment of Rachel Ackerson as the Purchasing Manager for the Kenton County Treasury Department.**

Commissioner Sewell made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Nienaber. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

**N. Executive Order 25-170
An Executive Order accepting the resignation of Samuel Murray as a Public Services Technician I for the Kenton County Public Works Department.**

Commissioner Nienaber made the motion for approval; seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann called for a voice vote, and the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Administrative Reporting

Emergency Communications

Ashley Hawks stated that the only thing that she would like to add is that we have actually asked for feedback from our first responders as it pertains to the way that we are being presented out to them from the EOC. They said that if we would not have told them we were operating down there, they wouldn't have known. She would just like to point out that it's because of the investments that this court has made in order to enable us to buy the equipment and have this EOC and it being completely redundant that we're able to provide those services in these emergencies. It is very much appreciated. She then thanked the court for approving the attendance incentive. She believes that we'll be able to take that fairly far.

Police Department

Chief Spike Jones stated that Dispatch's transition has been seamless and his department hasn't noticed any difference. That is just kudos to Ashley and her team for that. Also, tomorrow night we'll be conducting a meeting of our Police Merit Board to discuss the 2026 goals for recruiting and promotional opportunities and retention. We're very close to being at full staff. We have a very promising candidate right now in the final phases of background, and he hopes to be able to report to you by the new year that we will only be one shy of being at full staff.

Another note he wants to mention is that the law enforcement navigator program, which was started in October, has opened 119 cases for those navigators. So, there was a void that we didn't realize that needed filling as bad as it did.

Chief Jones then stated that he has some holiday tips that he left on the Commissioner and Judge's desks. We'll be putting those out with the assistance of Meg Erpenbeck for our folks to see and hopefully have a safe and happy holiday.

Detention Center

Jailer Marc Fields stated that the Kentucky Law Enforcement's Women's Network had their annual convention or conference a couple of weeks ago here at the end of November. They named us, the Kenton County Detention Center, as the law enforcement agency of the year. He wanted to thank you all, because a lot of that had to do with the things that you just passed tonight. Being able to become fully staffed was only because of your efforts and enabled us to offer this incentive. He believes Joe Shriver hit it on the head when he said that the 2080 is a retention tool that we've been using. It is Not so much a recruiting tool, but the other one that you just passed, the transitional leave, will definitely be that recruiting tool for all the departments to use. The salary surveys that you just did two years ago when you changed our salaries and moved that up had to do with the contentment of our employees. Some of it had to do with what we did inside too. The Network named those, and a couple of things they named were some of the employee kind of relations things that we do. We do our own newsletter inside monthly, inside the department. We celebrate life events of our people including new births, marriages and things like that. We also spotlight an employee every month to talk about their career and corrections. Every three months we do some kind of employee cookout or potluck too. So, it's been a different atmosphere inside the jail. We try to make it as good as we possibly can for our employees, but we couldn't have done anything without your support. We're being recognized outside for those kinds of things now.

Commissioner Draud stated that we need to thank Jailer Fields also for the good leadership that he has provided. He doesn't want to offend anybody, but he thinks it's 100% better than when he first arrived.

Jailer Fields stated that he has been very lucky and very blessed to have the team around him that he has. They are very good and dedicated to what's right, and he is very happy where we're at right now.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that is very proud of what Jailer Fields has done down at the jail, and the team he has built around him. Obviously, people will follow good leaders and good leaders will follow good leaders. Most of what has been achieved has been on your direction. We're just here as a support. There has been a true turnaround. He doesn't mean to belittle anybody, because he doesn't know much of the people that work there but the quality seems to have grazed on the atmosphere and the employees under Jailer Field's leadership.

Jailer Fields stated that they are now able to turn down people, which is a big step.

Homeland Security/Emergency Management

Steve Hensley stated that they attended the last safety planning meeting for the Brent Spence Bridge project. We're doing those quarterly now. We have been informed that probably we will see some pretty significant work that will be initiated within the next six months out there. One of the good parts of that is that they had a public information company that was there today that's going to be putting out real-time updates. We got that contact information and connected Meg Erpenbeck with them. Hopefully, we'll be able to share real-time information, because it's going to get pretty complicated in the next six months to a year to travel around the downtown Covington corridor. Even getting to our building on occasions will be tricky. So we want to try to provide as much advanced information to the traveling public as we can as to how to navigate those detours. In addition to that, we were invited to and participated in the city talk show along with Chris Moriconi and Dave Hatter. The topic was the bridge project, including how are we

planning for it, and are we being proactive. We had a lot of lessons learned when we had the bridge closure before, so we discussed some of that in the show and we've been asked if we would follow up and give some additional information. So when we have more to say, we'll certainly do that.

Mr. Hensley then stated that he recently attended some training down in Louisville, the IAEM, which is the International Association of Emergency Management Conference that was held this year in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, which is very rare. We sought out some scholarship funds, and we were able to send not only Todd and himself, but several of our part-time people down to participate in that. Since it was in Louisville, it was pretty easy for them to get there and return. Also, we had a couple interesting calls. We had a critical missing adult from the City of Erlanger who went missing on Commonwealth Avenue and was located on Turkey Foot Road. We're still amazed at how much distance that individual covered, but he was fine and released back to the parents. We also had an extended hazardous material release on I-75 at 275 Rand. Lastly, he extended some appreciation to Adam Chaney at SD1. We had some recent flooding events on northbound 75 in the area of 12th Street, and we needed vector trucks to come down and work on those drains. SD1 sent two vector trucks down and made pretty quick work of reopening the I-75 corridor. So we appreciate that partnership

Commissioner Draud stated that Adam Chaney has done a really good job.

Commissioner Nienaber stated that he has been doing a little bit of studying on traffic patterns north through Fort Wright. 66,000 people work in Cincinnati from Northern Kentucky. So, 66,000 people cross that bridge. This was from a study that the Northern Kentucky Area Development District did in 2020. This means that a lot of the total people who leave the State of Kentucky are from Boone, Kenton, and Campbell County. You can imagine what that means for the traffic patterns over the next however many years with that bridge. It has to get bad before it gets better. It is going to be tricky to navigate.

Treasury

Treasurer Kurt Greivenkamp stated that he needs the record to reflect that the financial reports for November, 2025, have been submitted

County Administrator 's Report

County Administrator Joe Shriver stated that he just wanted to express publicly what he says to the departments all the time. Department heads make his job easy, and he wouldn't trade any of them with any other county in the state. They are the best, and he appreciates them.

Assistant County Attorney 's Report

Assistant County Attorney Chris Nordloh had nothing to report.

Commissioners ' Reports

Commissioner Draud

Commissioner Draud stated that he has this neighbor who's in charge of this fly fishing club, and they are willing to put about \$50,000 into that Doe Run Lake up there to try to make it more quality. He doesn't know if that will require us to put any money in or not. He asked Scott Gunning if he met with him?

Scott Gunning answered that yes, he did meet with him, and had numerous phone calls with him. He sent him a capital budget for Doe Run, and he would guess that the \$50,000 is probably for the boat dock down there. We would obviously welcome that, and it would be a great improvement to the lake.

Commissioner Draud stated that he thinks that would be a good cause as he thinks that has a lot of potential for beauty. He then thanked Mr. Gunning for putting that sign up on 17 about Doe Run Lake. Lastly, he wished everybody a Merry Christmas, and thanked everyone for being so kind and doing a good job all year long. This is a great county to live in, and this is probably the best Fiscal Court in the history of Kenton County. He has been in a lot of other elected positions, and this has been by far the most pleasant one. He has had a lot of friction in his lifetime.

Commissioner Beth Sewell

Commissioner Sewell stated that this has been a wonderful year of successes we have had with all of you and those of our team that aren't here tonight. She looks forward to serving with you good people.

another year to end our term. 11 years has gone by like that. Seems like it's been two, but that's been because we've worked hard and it's been a lot of fun. You make it easy, Judge. She is just honored to be here. She hopes everyone has a very blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Commissioner Joe Nienaber

Commissioner Nienaber stated that he can't really say any more about the season, but he has to say coming in here tonight when the sun was setting was amazing. It casts a really spectacular kind of view of this building, and with it starting to get dark with the Christmas lights and the fresh coat of everything that this building has is amazing. Very well done. He is proud of everybody who had something to do with making sure that it was done essentially top-notch. This historic building is one of our major accomplishments. It is just one of a lot of things over the 11 years that we have put in place. He does think that we have a list of accomplishments over the past 11 years that has taken care of some stuff that has been needed for many, many years, and secured them well into the future for the next 50, 60 or 70 years.

Commissioner Draud asked how the replacement of the sheriff works? Does the governor have anything to do with that?

Judge Knochelmann said that he, as the Judge/Executive makes the appointment. If it were a Commissioner, the Governor would make the appointment.

Judge/Executive Kris Knochelmann

Judge Knochelmann stated that the partnership with Independence for the Christmas Walk is great. Scott Gunning has been dealing with that for many years now. Independence takes the lead on it to utilize our grounds. The upgrades of this building make that nicer for all residents of Kenton County. Many of the Independence and Unincorporated residents celebrate that, which is a nice time. Also, it is hard to believe that we've got three years into this four-year term, the four of us. We will have one more Christmas to celebrate. We have a lot of work to accomplish this next year, but the good news is, financially and operationally, with the leadership that's in this room and is not in this room, he thinks we are doing amazing. There is a reason why this group came together when we did, because only with this group and with the leadership of Joe and the rest of the team have we been able to do that. It is not one person, it is not even two or three. He really does believe that we're meant to get together and do the good work. We make mistakes here or there, but we're trying. He doesn't think that the public would ever realize when we actually

have a topic to discuss that we actually dig in, debate it, say that's wrong, fix it here and adjust it. It's not just one person's initiative that moves things forward. We listen to the staff and say, we may not be able to get it done as quickly as sometimes we would like to, but he thinks that's good progress. So onward into 2026. Have a safe and great holiday season.

Adjournment

Having completed all business before the Court, Commissioner Draud offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Sewell. Judge/Executive Knochelmann requested a voice vote whereupon all members present voted in the affirmative with a 4-0 vote.

Text for all proposed and recently passed ordinances may be acquired by accessing the Fiscal Court web page at <http://www.kentoncounty.org> or by contacting the administrative offices at 859.392.1400.

CLERK CERTIFICATION

I, Sue J. Kaiser, having been appointed to the office of Fiscal Court Clerk, do hereby certify that this is a true and accurate record of the actions taken by the Kenton County Fiscal Court at the meeting of December 9, 2025.



Sue J. Kaiser
Fiscal Court Clerk

DRAFT